NEWS RELEASE
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UTAH LANDOWNERS HONORED

The Utah Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee has recognized 4 Utahns for their devotion to the principles of responsible land ownership. The Forest Landowner of the Year award has been presented to Keith Allred, West Jordan; Melvin and Nanette Coonrod, of Elmo, received the Agro-forest Landowner of the Year award; and a Forest Stewardship Achievement Award was given to Chad Reid, Cedar City.

Collectively these awards are called the State Forester's Stewardship Awards, and were presented Thursday, November 8, 2001, during the annual Utah Association of Conservation Districts convention held in Ogden, Utah.

The Allred property is located in Carbon County. It is managed as a working ranch and a site to demonstrate how to maintain a healthy ecosystem and to show how the different components of an ecosystem function as a whole. Working with the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Allred has protected the land from development utilizing the state's Forest Legacy Program.

Melvin and Nanette Coonrod have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to sound conservation management principles. They own Desert Lake Farms and Environmental Industrial Services, a firm specializing in preparing environmental impact statements and assessments to meet federal policy guidelines. Their land is a working ranch where livestock grazing and agricultural production are co-mingled with providing important wildlife habitat. The Desert Lake Farms is an exceptional example of how agriculture activities and wildlife populations can co-exist.

A Forest Stewardship Achievement Award honored Chad Reid for his work as a Utah State University Extension Agent. He is dedicated to educating people about the important role trees play in our lives. He devotes countless hours speaking to youth groups and schools and has significantly increased awareness of the importance of practicing forest and agro-forest management utilizing the principles of conservation and stewardship.

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